



Together in Prayer for Sheffield
and
Sheffield Prayer Link
Working together to encourage citywide prayer

Every month a free bulletin is issued with prayer points for the City. To get your monthly copy register with SPL today.
Email: prayer@sheffieldcrosslinks.co.uk Tel: 0114 2493956

JUNE 2009

GLORY IN THE CHURCH - Ephesians 3:21

In Rev.21:11. The apostle John saw the church in its final, eternal condition and said "*It shone with the glory of God*". Colossians 3:4 tells us that "*When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you will appear with Him in Glory*". Reflecting His glory and sharing it, what a destiny! God intends that His glory "*will be revealed in us*" Rom. 8:18.

But this is not just a future hope. That display of His glory is a "*now through the church*" intention of God. Ephesians 3:11 makes that clear. It is NOW that "*we all with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another*" 2 Cor.3:18. NOW, in June 2009, God's intention for the church in Sheffield is that it displays more and more of His glory in its union with His risen, ascended and glorified Son.

Therefore, because this is God's intended purpose for us, we can pray with confidence that He will mightily fulfil it in us. And let us pray too that where there are any "veils" in the life and activity of the church, preventing this glory being revealed, they will be removed. 2 Cor. 3:18 tells us that this will be accomplished "*by the Spirit of the Lord*".

Holy Spirit, will you be mightily at work in the church here in Sheffield to this end, that there will be "*glory in the church ... in Christ Jesus*". May our city be impacted as a result. Amen

Sheffield Prayer Link Team

Each month the Sheffield Prayer Team meet to pray for the monthly prioritised areas of the city. You are invited to join us at the Sheffield Cross Links office every third Wednesday in the month from 11 till noon. For further information, or if you have prayer points for your area please ring the SCL office: 0114 2493956.



[SCL -291 Abbeydale Road. Sheffield S7 1FJ. 0114 2493956

WE CAN'T AND SHOULDN'T IGNORE THE POLITICS

On 4th June the UK will be voting to elect 78 representatives (MEPs) to the European Parliament (EP). The concern is that low turnout for the vote could mean significant gains for extreme parties (i.e. far right) due to the European Parliaments proportional representation voting system.

Please Pray: that God will turnaround the voting apathy in the UK and that voting attendance will be increased; for the vision of peace and co-operation in Europe and for the efficient administration of the EU.

Please pray for civic and national leaders, that they will be guided by the moral compass of Christ.

Please pray: that we do not succumb to the temptation to take pleasure in the downfall of our politicians and seek retribution through public humiliation.

Please Pray for the families of people in parliamentary positions, especially the children of those caught up in the current denigration of our political system, that they will be strengthened by the prayers of the faithful.

Please pray also for Christian MPs and local leaders, that they may stand firm in these troubled times.

But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

When our national life seems to be standing under judgement, Christians need to demonstrate the **'Alternative Society'** - to live a life of integrity under the Lord.

Please pray: that Christians will rise to the challenge of being "different", putting Jesus at the centre and earnestly seeking the Kingdom.

Please pray: that believers will respond to calls to 'stand in the gap' created by those found wanting in public roles of all kinds – to be the salt and light that our nation needs.

New Heads of Religious Programming Departments at BBC

This could be an ideal opportunity for the BBC to better reflect higher standards across all their programming.

Please pray: for all involved in broadcasting, that they provide a positive influence in the nation and especially for our young people.

Please pray that Christian programmes will be portrayed in a way that honours our beliefs and honours the Lord.

"He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"

Micah 6:8 NIV



LISTEN TO THE CHILDREN

As further evidence comes to light of abuse of children,

please pray for healing for those who have been abused and damaged. **Please pray** that we learn to listen to the voices of the young, to hear their frustrations, their fear and their pain and to respond to them with love, compassion and action. **Please pray** that where the church has been involved in perpetrating or covering up abuse, full confession and true repentance flow.

Please pray also that all Christians and especially leaders are equipped to deal humbly but steadfastly with broad brush criticism of the church and that we all show the love of Christ through our care for young people.

21st June—Fathers Day Prayer

Heavenly Father please bless all the fathers in Sheffield and in the world. Guide them to be good role models and loving to all their children. Help them to be a father like You are. Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way.

Father's Day is a day to honour not only your father, but all men who have acted as a father figure in your life—whether as Stepfathers, Uncles, Grandfathers, or "Big Brothers."

Please pray for all those involved in fathering children at this time

MONEY MATTERS

It is no longer the 'credit crunch', or a 'financial crisis', but rather a 'recession' we are living through. But whatever it is called, it does not change the financial situation sweeping the Globe. While we know that our heavenly Father is in control, many charities working in UK and abroad are not immune to the financial waves. They need your prayers, for the millions of people they seek to help release from material and spiritual poverty.

Please pray for a charity that is close to your heart right now.

Please consider sending a donation. to help ease the burden at this time.

Bathing our Leaders in Prayer For a Month

Each month we focus on leaders and ministers in a particular area of the city. Starting in S9 & S10 we will *give the surname of every one, irrespective of their denomination or stream. This month please pray for the wisdom and power of God in their lives and in their preaching of the Gospel; for their health and family; for their prosperity and blessing:

REDHEAD. LUNT. WARMAN. WHITTINGHAM. GILLEN. BINDANDA. MISSING. RICHARDS. BUTLER. STONES. CROFT. GRENFELL. GRIFITHS. GIBSON. HEBLEY. ECCLESTON. TOWNSEND. WILLAIMS. STRIDE. WOODHEAD. JOW. BRADSHAW. SIMMS. TEBBUTT. HOPKINS. SOOSAH. SMITH. CULLEN. STOCKS. THORNTON. WALSH. YODAN.

*Please forgive us and pray for any leader we may have missed.

**What is an Intercessor? 16. An Intercessor is by definition...
a Witness of His Ascension.
Acts 1, verses 10-11.**

^{10 11} And while they looked, steadfastly toward Heaven, as HE went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same JESUS, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come, in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven."

I consider that the Ascension of our LORD is sadly neglected by the church, to our loss. In the context of intercession I invite you to consider the words of Acts 1:10-11.

And while they looked, steadfastly toward Heaven, as HE went up, the word that always hits me is "*steadfast*". Surely this is a word for today, it is sadly missing from our national character, not least in our politics, but also in our Christian witness. Forty days of "Kingdom" teaching had followed through from the Upper Room and Olivet teaching of the Day before He died. (Acts 1:3). These disciples are now steadfast men. Heaven's messengers call them "*Ye Men of Galilee*" even though at this moment they are in Judea. The Day of Resurrection was marred by their refusal to re-gather in Galilee as *JESUS* had told them, but eventually they did so and there He had been teaching them "*Concerning Kingdom*"

These steadfast men are now obedient men. The messengers' question "*Why stand ye gazing up into Heaven?*" sometimes strikes me as pointless. The disciples are loath to see Him go, they have yet to learn by Pentecostal experience that His promise "*I am with you always*" is the new-life reality. They are also gazing at our supreme Intercessor, who is taking His place at the right hand of His FATHER and their / our FATHER, where "*He ever lives to make intercession for us,*" into which sublime ministry He is calling them to share. These steadfast, obedient, men are now to become intercessors.

Had they been invited to respond to the messengers' question, what would they have said? They are doing what they must do, every day: praying in His Name, ascending in Christ to the throne of grace.